(ग) गन्ना उत्पादकों को, भविष्य में और अधिक गन्ना पैदा करने हेतु प्रोत्साहित करने के लिए क्या प्रयास किए गए हैं?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुल्लापल्ली रामचन्द्रन): (क) और (ख) दरअसल गन्ने के लिए कोई अधिप्राप्ति मूल्य नहीं है। तथापि, केन्द्रीय सरकार प्रत्येक मौसम में गन्ने का सांविधिक न्यूनतम मूल्य निर्धारित करती है, और कोई भी चीनी कारखाना उत्पादकों को इससे कम कीमत अदा नहीं कर सकता है। 1992-93 के लिए चीनी कारखानों द्वारा दिए जाने वाले गन्ने के सांविधिक न्यूनतम मूल्य निर्धारित करने का प्रस्ताव अभी सरकार के विचाराधीन है। हालांकि अब तक कोई अंतिम निर्णय नहीं लिया जा सका है।

(ग) गन्ने के उत्पादन को बढ़ाने की नीति में निम्नलिखित सम्मिलित हैः क्वालिटी बीजों का उत्पादन व वितरणः बेहतर जल प्रबंध, उर्वरकों का युक्तियुक्त उपयोग; रतुओं का बेहतर प्रबंध; पौध संरक्षण के अंतर्गत अधिक क्षेत्रों को शामिल करना; विभिन्न विस्तार प्रणालियों के माध्यम से प्रौद्योगिकी अन्तरण; गन्ना विकास, कर्मचारियों का प्रशिक्षण तथा गन्ना विकास में चीनी कारखानों की अधिक सहभागिता।

Use of Equipments in I.C.A.R. Institutions/Laboratories

3815. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in many institutions/Laboratories under I.C.A.R. (Indian Council of Agricultural Research) equipments and stores costing Rs. 2.04 crore including imported ones are lying uninstalled or unused, relating to the period as far back as 1961;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof indicating value, year of purchase and reasons for lying uninstalled; and

(c) the number of cases in which I.C.A.R.'s reply for inordinate delay in installation of equipment etc. in response to audit objections has not given so far indicating the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K.C. LENKA): (a) Sir, As per Report No. 2 of 1992 of C. & AG of India (Scientific Departments) for the year ended 31.3.1991, equipments and stores (including imported ones) costing Rs. 3.60 crores were shown as uninstalled, lying unused. The oldest equipment as per details in the report was procured in 1965 and not in 1961.

(b) The details are given in Annexure. [*See* Apendix CLXV, Annexure No. 66]

(c) The ICAR has since furnished replies to the Principal Director of Audit, Scientfic Departments in respect of all the items.

Assistance to Small Farmers

3816. SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the criteria for determining small farmers together with the State-wise number of such farmers in the country;

(b) what assistance is being provided to small farmers by Government for agricultural development; and

(c) whether Government propose to exempt small farmers from payment of interest on bank loans?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) A cultivator with a land holding of two hectares or below is a small farmer. Where a farmer has Class I irrigated land, as defined in the State Land Ceiling Legislation with one hectare or less he will also be considered as small farmers. Where the land is irrigated but not of the Class I variety, a suitable conversion ratio is being adopted by the State Governments